

MAINES
BARROWS
FERREIRA
LUCAS

ABSOLUTE
POWER
COUNTDOWN TO

SUICIDE SQUAD DREAM TEAM



13+
TEEN

DAWN OF
DC

HOUSE OF BRAINIAC



THE BRAINIAC QUEEN STRIKES IN THE FINALE OF THE

SUPERMAN
ACTION & **SUPERMAN**
CROSSOVER!

WRITTEN BY JOSHUA WILLIAMSON

ART BY RAFA SANDOVAL & MIGUEL MENDONÇA

ACTION COMICS #1066 COVER BY RAFA SANDOVAL



JUNE

HOUSE OF BRAINIAC



CONCLUDES...AND THE COUNTDOWN TO
**ABSOLUTE
POWER**
BEGINS!

PART 5:
ACTION COMICS #1066

TIE-IN:
GREEN LANTERN #12

PART 6:
SUPERMAN #15
TIE-IN:
POWER GIRL #10



SUPERMAN #15



GREEN LANTERN #12



POWER GIRL #10

**WESTBOUND,
SOMEWHERE
OVER THE
PACIFIC
OCEAN.**

FOR THE FIRST
TIME IN ALMOST
FOUR YEARS, I HAD A
DREAMLESS SLEEP.

BLACK ALICE TOOK
MY POWER, AND MY
DREAMS WENT DARK.

YOU THINK
SHE WAS
RIGHT? ABOUT
'MANDERZ'?

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK,
QUINN?

I STOPPED
PUTTIN' STUFF
PAST HER A
LONG TIME
AGO.

I IMAGINE
WE'LL KNOW FOR
CERTAIN WHEN WE
REACH *GAMORRA*
ISLAND.

DREAMER.
DREAM
WALKER.

BLACK ALICE.
MAGIC
SIPHON.

I WISH I COULD
SAY I FELT LIKE
SOMETHING
WAS MISSING.

BIZARRO.
HE AM NOT
SUPERMAN.

DEADEYE.
TELEPATHIC
HUNTER.

CLOCK KING.
ALWAYS
ON TIME.

HARLEY QUINN.
IT'S HAMMER
TIME.

FROM
WHAT I COULD SEE
WHEN I TOOK HER POWERS,
AMANDA'S PLOTTING AGAINST THE
WHOLE *WORLD*. DREAMER'S
NOT GONNA BE ABLE TO
STOP HER.

WELL,
SHE *COULD*,
BUT SHE'S NOT
GOING TO.

EITHER
NAL HERE IS
TOO *INSECURE*
OR SHE'S TOO *FULL*
OF HERSELF
TO SEE THE
TRUTH.

AMANDA'S
GONNA *WIN*.
AND IT'S GONNA
BE *ALL HER*
FAULT.

URGH.

BUT
HONESTLY--





LET--

--ME--
--GO.

I HAVE
TO STOP
HER.

MY
GOD, WHEN
IT COMES TO
STUBBORNNESS
YOU AND WALLER
REALLY ARE A
PERFECT
PAIR, AREN'T
YOU?

SHUFF
SHUFF
SHUFF



PLEASE.
I'M NOT
ASKING YOU TO
HELP ME--I'M
JUST ASKING
YOU TO **GET**
OUT OF MY
WAY.

SHUFF
SHUFF
SHUFF



AND I'M TELLING
YOU--TO AMANDA,
THERE'S NO
DIFFERENCE.

WE CAN FOLLOW
ORDERS, OR WE CAN
DIE. **THOSE** ARE
OUR CHOICES.

BUT
NOT FOR
ALL OF
YOU.



BIZARRO...
COME ON,
YOU CAN'T
FEEL IT, CAN
YOU?

BACK IN
PARTHAS, WHEN
I HIT YOU WITH MY
DREAM ENERGY, IT WENT
THROUGH YOUR
HEAD.

IT FORCED
THE BOMB
OUT. NO ONE BUT
YOU COULD HAVE
SURVIVED
THAT.



YOU'RE
NOT EXPENDABLE.
YOU'RE NOT JUST
SOME **WEAPON**.
YOU GET TO DECIDE
WHAT HAPPENS
NEXT.

YOU WANT
TO BE A **HERO**.
SO DO I, BUT I
NEED YOUR
HELP.

PLEASE.
HELP ME.



ENOUGH
OF THIS! YOU
HAD YOUR SHOT
AND YOU MADE A
MESS OF IT! QUIT
TRYING TO BRING
THE REST OF
US DOWN
WITH--



--WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?!
YOU'RE GOING TO
GET US ALL
KILLED!



NOT IF I
CAN HELP
IT!

HEY!
HANDS
OFF, GIRL
SCOUT!

SLAM



BUT I'LL
BE NEEDING
MY POWERS
BACK!

MY POWERS ARE MANY
THINGS. MAGIC ISN'T
ONE OF THEM. BLACK
ALICE COULDN'T HOLD
ON TO THE DREAMS
IF SHE TRIED.



LIKE TIME, THEY
CONSTANTLY FLOW
FORWARD, SHIFTED BY
LITTLE CHOICES, BUT
ALWAYS IN MOTION.

AS THEY POUR
BACK INTO ME,
AND I'M TAKEN BY
A VISION, I'M
REMINDED...

BE IT FROM MY
POWERS OR THE
FUTURE... I CAN'T
ESCAPE.

DC COMICS PRESENTS THE SUICIDE SQUAD IN...

DREAMS DIE

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MATTHEW LEVINE
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YOU KNOW, DESPITE ITS INFINITE RARITY, I HAD HOPED I WAS GOING TO BE **WRONG** THIS TIME.



THE SHEER **PREDICTABILITY** OF THE "HERO'S JOURNEY" COULD BORE ME TO TEARS.

C-CLICK
C-CLICK



C'EST LA VIE, I SUPPOSE.

BAM



NOW
HIT HIM.



KRYPTONITE
CHEATING! NO
KRYPTONITE!

AH, NOT
AGAIN!

--BECAUSE
MY BOMB
ALREADY
WENT OFF.

YOU'RE
NOT GOING
ANYWHERE!

WE HAD A
DEAL, KID! YOU
WERE SUPPOSED TO
LET US BRING YOU
IN, THEN YOU WERE
GOING TO TAKE
YOUR SHOT AT
WALLER!

SAVE IT! I
HEARD YOU
TALKING--YOU
DON'T THINK I
EVEN CAN
WIN!

INSTEAD
OF POPPING
OFF AND
PUTTING THE
REST OF US
AT RISK!

LOOK, I
UNDERSTAND
WHY YOU CAN'T
HELP ME. BUT I
NEED YOU TO
UNDERSTAND...

...AMANDA
DOESN'T
CONTROL ME
ANYMORE--

WELL
MAYBE YOU
COULD IF YOU'D
MAKE A PLAN
AND STICK
TO IT!

KRAK

YANK

BIZARRO!
CATCH THEM!

WHAT
ARE
YOU--

VZZZZZZ







WHY
IS NO ONE
RESPONDING
TO ME?

YOU BETTER
ANSWER **RIGHT**
NOW OR I'M
PICKING SOMEONE
AT RANDOM TO MAKE
AN EXAMPLE OF!

**THE ISLAND NATION
OF GAMORRA.
AMANDA WALLER'S
BASE OF OPERATIONS.**



I HAVE HAD
THREE HOURS
OF SLEEP IN AS MANY
DAYS! YOU DO **NOT** WANT
TO PLAY THIS GAME
WITH--



--OH,
WHAT THE
#@%\$?

MY DREAMS
AREN'T INFALLIBLE.
I'M WRONG. A LOT.

BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP

BUT I KNOW I'M
RIGHT ABOUT
ONE THING--

--AMANDA WALLER AND
HER FORCES ARE GOING
TO CAUSE UNTOLD PAIN
AND SUFFERING.

BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP

AND THAT ALL
STARTS WITH THE
PRISON SHE'S
BUILDING.

VWOOSH

EJECTION
SEAT
ACTIVATED

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

IT'LL BE EMPTY
NOW. THIS IS MY
ONLY WINDOW.

CLANG

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP BEEP BEEP

THWAK

IT'S MY FAULT FOR
LETTING HER HAVE
GAMORRA, SO I
HAVE TO STOP HER.

AUGH!

EVEN IF I
CAN ONLY SLOW
HER DOWN.

EVEN IF IT
KILLS ME





UHHN...

FWOOSH

MY HERO.



BIZARRO
ALWAYS
RUIN--

THANK







"BAD THINGS"?
EVERYTHING YOU
CAUSED, EVERYTHING
YOU MADE ME **DO**, YOU
CHALK UP TO "**BAD
THINGS**"?

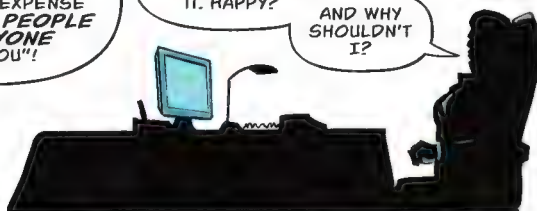
MMM.
FOR LACK
OF A BETTER
WORD.



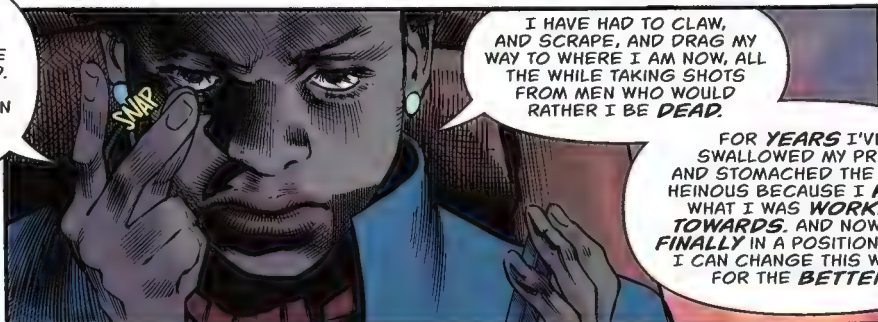
TRY "EVIL."
TRY "PSYCHOTIC."
TRY "A COMPLETE AND
ABSOLUTE ABUSE OF
POWER AT THE EXPENSE
OF **INNOCENT PEOPLE**
AND **EVERYONE**
AROUND YOU!"

FINE.
I ABUSE MY
POWER. I ADMIT
IT. HAPPY?

AND WHY
SHOULDN'T
I?



THIS
WORLD
WASN'T BUILT
FOR WOMEN LIKE
US TO SUCCEED.
HELL, IT WASN'T
BUILT FOR WOMEN
TO SUCCEED,
PERIOD.

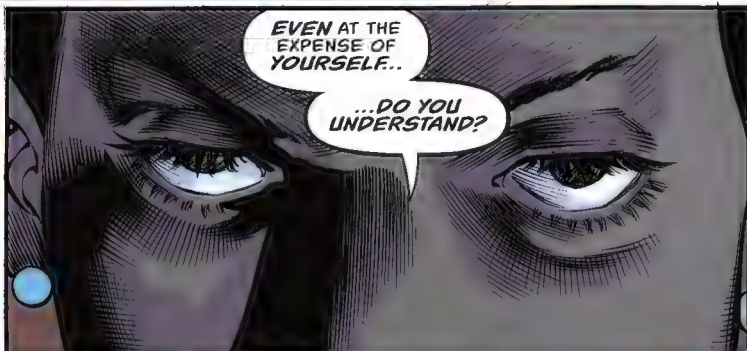


I HAVE HAD TO CLAW,
AND SCRAPE, AND DRAG MY
WAY TO WHERE I AM NOW, ALL
THE WHILE TAKING SHOTS
FROM MEN WHO WOULD
RATHER I BE **DEAD.**

FOR YEARS I'VE
SWALLOWED MY PRIDE
AND STOMACHED THE TRULY
HEINOUS BECAUSE I **KNEW**
WHAT I WAS **WORKING**
TOWARDS. AND NOW I AM
FINALLY IN A POSITION WHERE
I CAN CHANGE THIS WORLD
FOR THE **BETTER.**



YOU SEE, MISS
NAL, **THAT'S** WHAT
BEING A HERO IS. IT'S
NOT JUST PUNCHING OUT
THE BAD GUYS. IT'S DOING
WHATEVER YOU HAVE
TO DO TO SAVE THE
FUTURE.



**EVEN AT THE
EXPENSE OF
YOURSELF...**

**...DO YOU
UNDERSTAND?**



YES, I
UNDERSTAND.





CRASH

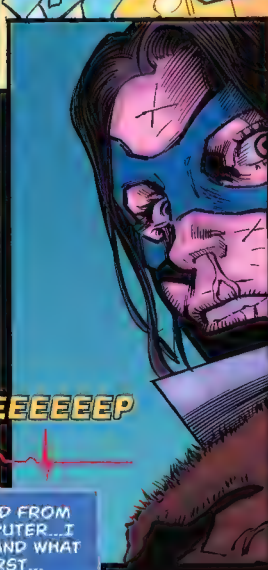


YOU KILLED THEM!
YOU!

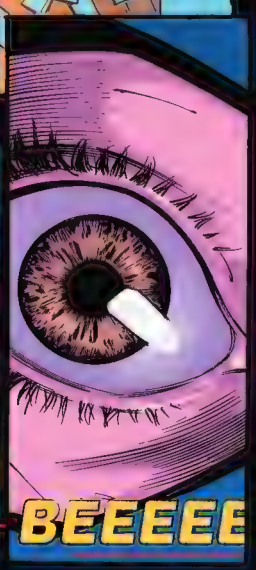


BEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEP

I HEAR A SOUND FROM WALLER'S COMPUTER...I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IT IS AT FIRST...



BEEEEEEEEEE



BEEEEEE

TASK FORCE VII FIGHTING THE METAHUMAN THREAT



MAEVE NAL

NIA NAL



COMMANDER WALLER

The subjects, Paul Nal and Maeve Nal, were apprehended following the re-capture of Nia Nal, aka the Dreamer, and immediately escorted to Gamorra City. Upon arrival, they remained sedated while the upgraded X-311 Nanite Explosive Devices were injected into the subjects' craniovertebral junctions.

As discussed, the devices are each linked to the specially designed heart monitor worn by Ms. Waller. Should the monitor, at any time, fail to detect signs of life in the wearer, the nanite explosives will immediately detonate, terminating the subjects.

Initial troubleshooting and tests show that the devices are online and everything is operating as intended.

Should Ms. Waller wish to detonate one or both of the X-311s, she is able to do so remotely through previously established channels.

THEN I SEE IT
THE PAPERS ON HER DESK
(AND I REALIZE WHAT I HAVE DONE)



TRUST TASK FORCE VII
END THE REIGN OF THE SUPER-HEROES

...DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

YES, I UNDERSTAND.

AS I OPEN MY EYES AND COME OUT OF THE DREAM, THE OVERWHELMING CRUSH OF DEFEAT IS WHAT HITS ME FIRST.

FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY THE HUMILIATING FEELING OF ALL OF MY NERVE EVAPORATING.

AND I'M LEFT KNOWING AMANDA WON BEFORE SHE EVEN KNOCKED ON MY DOOR.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

TAKE THE FILE.

I NEVER SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN MIXED UP WITH HER...BUT I WANTED TO BE A HERO.

CLASSIFIED

...
I HATE YOU.

WELCOME TO THE SUICIDE SQUAD.

NOW WHAT AM I INSTEAD?

THE DREAM IS OVER...
BUT NOT FOR LONG!

TO BE CONTINUED IN **ABSOLUTE POWER: GROUND ZERO**--
ON SALE IN TWO WEEKS.

REMEMBERING AN ICON

M.D. “Doc” Bright
1955–2024



Art by M.D. Bright, Trevor Scott, and Steve Matteson

I played music with Doc Bright for over 20 years. He was the bassist and I was the rhythm guitar in the K-Otics. When you spend that long holding down a rhythm section with somebody, you develop a peculiarly intense bond—call it the groove, the pocket, whatever. It is impossible to describe the feeling when what you are playing meshes precisely with another player. If I was playing a lead line in a blues number, I knew that whatever expressive whim I followed, Doc would be right there with me. It is devastating to realize I will never feel that chemistry again, to know the song has ended.

—Larry Hama

When creating Milestone Media, we always saw it as a throwback comic

book company and we all had our roles. Derek Dingle was our president and business leader, and Dwayne McDuffie was our Stan Lee, an editorial genius. M.D. Bright was our John Buscema, a master storyteller and brilliant artist of immense ability. We had asked him to join Milestone officially, but he preferred to draw full-time, and we are so thankful that he did. Mark was the artist for *Icon*, and he perfectly illustrated every issue he touched. There wouldn't be a Milestone as we know it without his vital contributions.

—Denys Cowan

In most every way that mattered, Doc and I literally were Quantum and Woody. I've been asked, many times, which of us was which. The truth is, I think both Eric

(Quantum) and Woody were based on Doc, on his perpetual seesaw between stoicism and sarcasm. Doc may be the funniest guy I ever knew: well educated, well-informed, and well deserving of his own late-night talk show. He could and often did mock virtually everything, had an opinion about literally everything, and had amazing creative skill in a number of disciplines.

Doc was a great guy and an amazing talent. I'm so blessed to have known him and to have learned from him. I say all these nice things because I don't want anyone to be confused about how deep my affection for the guy went or why he got on my damned nerves (and, thus, the basic formula for *Quantum & Woody*).

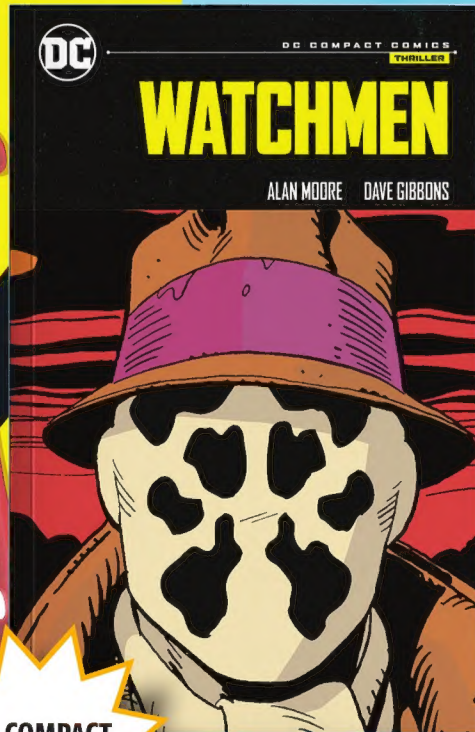
—Christopher Priest

ICONIC DC GRAPHIC NOVELS IN A NEW, COMPACT SIZE!

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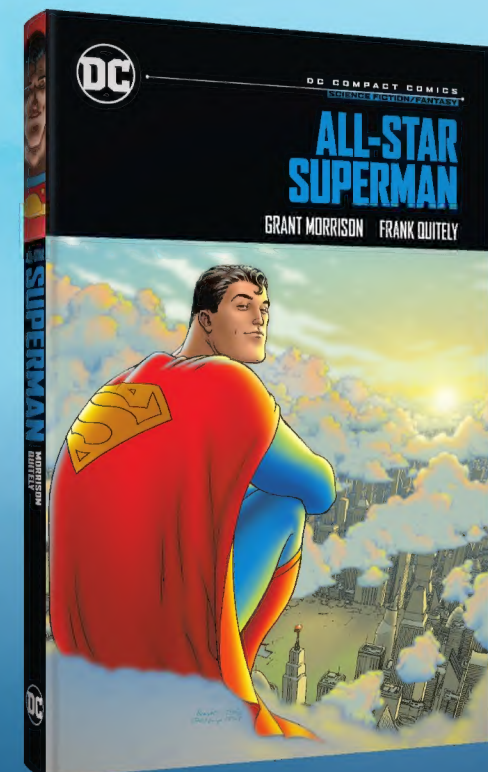
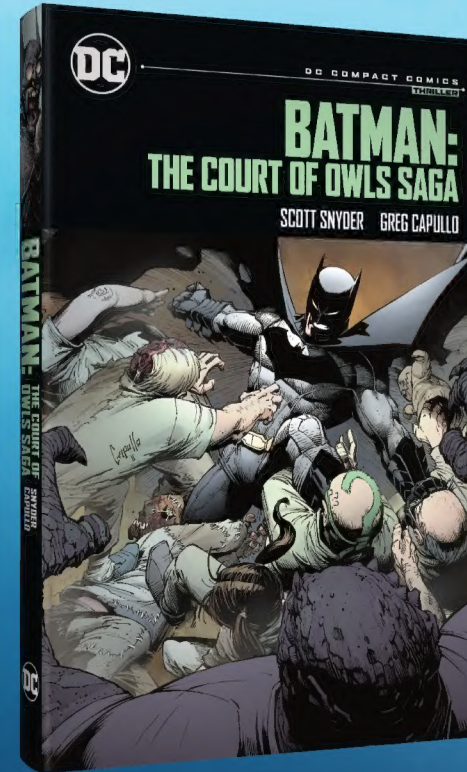
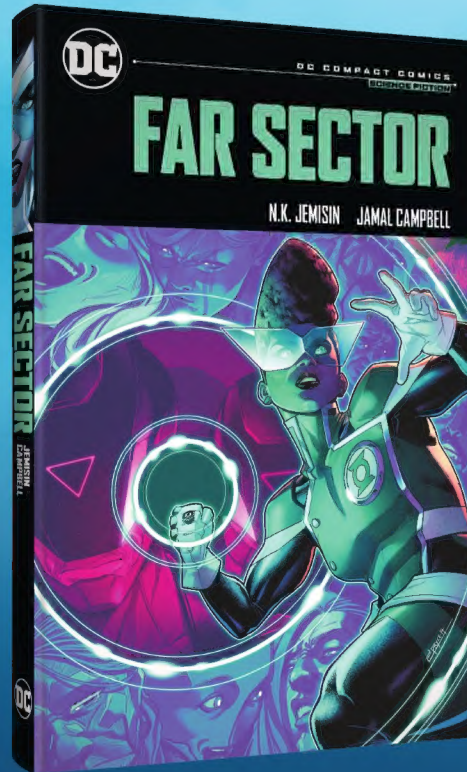
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- ☐ Joker
- ☐ American Vampire Book One
- ☐ Catwoman: Trail of the Catwoman



On Sale Starting in June



SERIES LAUNCH CHECKLIST

JUNE

- **BATMAN: GOTHAM BY GASLIGHT – THE KRYPTONIAN AGE #1** (of 6)

JULY

- **DARK KNIGHTS OF STEEL: ALLWINTER #1** (of 6)

AUGUST

- **DC VS. VAMPIRES: WORLD WAR V #1** (of 12)

SEPTEMBER

- **BATMAN THE BARBARIAN #1** (of 6)

OCTOBER

- **GREEN LANTERN DARK #1** (of 7)

NOVEMBER

- **BATMAN: NIGHTFIRE #1** (of 6)

**HEROES YOU KNOW.
WORLDS YOU DON'T.**

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